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September 2006 Sanction Clients: Characteristics and Risk of Initial Imposition of Full Family Sanctions

Report to Washington State WorkFirst SubCabinet

December 2006

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Executive summary

In September 2006, the six-month “clock” began for families in partial sanction in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Clients in sanction in September will be subject to full family sanction in March 2007 if noncompliance issues are not “cured” within six months. There was concern that there would be a sizable cohort of families reaching full family sanction in March 2007 made up of families on long term sanction. This interim report describes the numbers and characteristics of WorkFirst clients most at risk for full family sanction early in 2007.

Of September 2006 TANF cases with adults, 7.4 percent were in sanction in September: 4.6 percent of the caseload (1,451) had been in sanction three months or less and 2.8 percent (867) had been in sanction for four or more months.

We use a multivariate logit model based on the experiences of sanction cases from February 2006 to predict which families in sanction in September 2006 are most likely to remain in sanction for six consecutive months and therefore to be subject to the full family sanction.

Based on the experiences of February 2006 cases, we expect 414 September sanction families to reach six consecutive months of sanction in February 2007. Our model places 386 families in the two highest risk categories and 137 of those families are predicted to face full family sanction in March.

**Table 3:
Six month Sanction
Predicted Probabilities
and Numbers
for September 2006
Sanction Cases**

Category of Predicted Probability of 6 mos. Sanction	% of Sept. cases	Number of Sept. cases	Predicted Number of Sept cases with 6 mos. Sanction
Less than 10%	9%	208	12
10% to 25%	74%	1651	264
25% to 50%	15%	342	113
Over 50%	2%	44	24
Total	100%	2245	414

The characteristics most closely associated with the risk of full family sanction in our multivariate models are the time in the current sanction spell, total months of sanction in previous spells, and the total months of TANF receipt.

Race and ethnicity are not statistically related to the risk of six cumulative months of sanction after controlling for other characteristics (except that Hispanics are at statistically lower risk), however, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander clients are underrepresented in the higher risk groups because of other characteristics. Similarly, having children on SSI is not directly predictive of the risk of 6 months of sanction, but those families are overrepresented in the high risk group because of other family characteristics.

Together, these results provide a picture of the potential pool of families who may initially be subject to the full family sanction if the experience of February sanction cases serves as a good model. This method does not capture the causal links between family characteristics and TANF or sanction outcomes. Nor do these comparisons provide information on the likely numbers of full family sanctions in periods beyond the initial implementation.

I. Introduction

In September 2006, the six-month “clock” began for families in partial sanction in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Clients in sanction in September will be subject to full family sanction in March 2007 if noncompliance issues are not “cured” within six months. There was concern that there would be a sizable cohort of families reaching full family sanction in March 2007 made up of families on long term sanction. This interim report describes the numbers and characteristics of WorkFirst clients most at risk for full family sanction early in 2007.

This report is part of a larger project examining sanctions in Washington State between 2003 and spring 2007. In this report, we were asked to provide information on the characteristics and numbers of clients most likely to be subject to full family sanction in March 2007. We do this in two ways: 1) Using the TANF caseload in September 2006, we compare families in short term and long term sanction with those not in sanction; and 2) We use a multivariate model based on the experiences of the February 2006 sanction cases to predict which families in sanction in September 2006 are most likely to remain in sanction through February 2007 and therefore to be subject to the full family sanction.

Together, these results provide a picture of the potential pool of families who may initially be subject to the full family sanction. In interpreting these results, please note that this analysis cannot incorporate the effects of processes and efforts that have been implemented after the summer of 2006. This method also does not capture the causal links between family characteristics and TANF or sanction outcomes. [Models using new entrants to TANF are better designed for that task and will be presented in future reports.] Nor do these comparisons provide information on the likely numbers of full family sanctions in periods beyond the initial implementation.

Below, we describe the study methodology and data, present comparisons of characteristics of the September 2006 caseload by sanction status, report the results of the simulation predicting which families are likely to reach full family sanction in March 2007, and describe the characteristics of families at low and high risk.

II. Data and Methodology

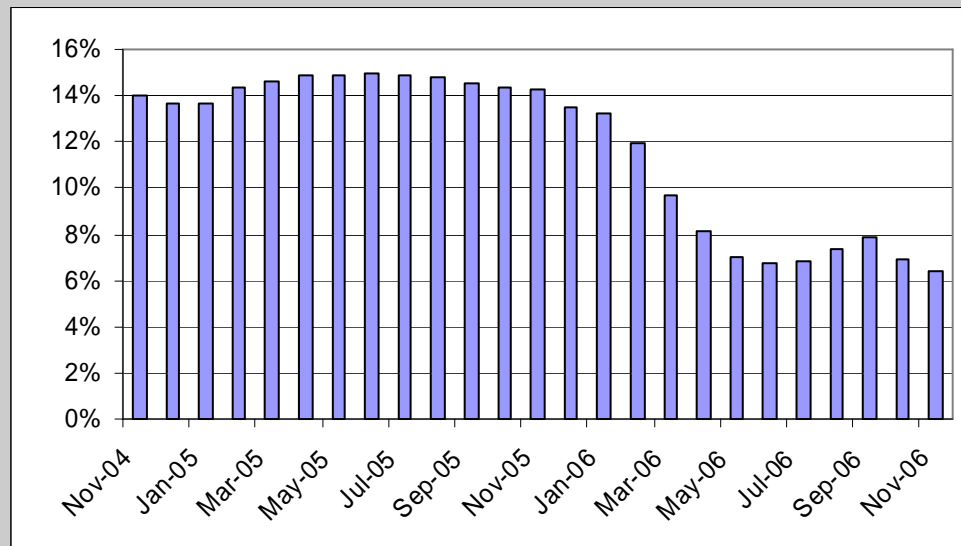
Data

These analyses use data for all families who received TANF in September 2006.¹ The caseload from September is used because this group of cases is the first who could reach full family sanction in March 2007 by accumulating six months of consecutive sanction.

¹ The analyses do not include child-only or teen parent cases since these are not subject to the same participation requirements.

We also use data from all families in sanction in February 2006 to help us predict which of the cases in sanction in September are most likely to reach full family sanction. February cases are used because it is the latest caseload for which we have information on sanction outcomes for six continuous months—parallel to the September to March period. The February sample provides better information about the most current climate for sanction implementation than would cases from periods prior to the announcement of the new sanction policy in November 2005 and the subsequent sanction case review. Sanction rates fell quickly between November 2005 and May 2006, before increasing again slightly in August 2006 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:
Sanction rate
for
Adult Caseload
Over time**



Data for the September and February 2006 caseloads includes TANF receipt and sanction history back to June 1997, individual and family characteristics and demographics, referrals to WorkFirst activities and component codes, earnings and work history from unemployment insurance files, child support award data, and geographic location information. [Appendix A provides a table of variable definitions.]

Case Comparison Methodology

In Section III, we describe the characteristics of families receiving TANF in September 2006. We compare families who were not in sanction at that time with those who had been in sanction for three or fewer months (“short term” sanction) and those who had been in sanction for more than three months (“long term” sanction). We provide comparisons of case history of TANF receipt and sanction status, family and individual demographics, earnings and child support awards, and referrals to WorkFirst activities.

These comparisons provide a sense of the characteristics of families based on their sanction history, which is an important predictor of future sanction time. Differences in characteristics for families with and without sanctions do not, however, isolate the direct causes of sanction because they will reflect links resulting from associations with length

of TANF receipt, the probability of sanction, the probability of sanction cure or exit from TANF, and with previous WorkFirst experiences and requirements.

Simulation Methodology

In Section IV., we provide estimates of the numbers of families at low, moderate, and high risk of reaching the full family sanction in the first month of implementation (March 2007).

To do this, we use the experiences of families who were in sanction in February 2006 to estimate the probability that families in sanction in September will reach full family sanction, accounting for differences between the February and September sanction cases in characteristics and sanction history.

We use a multivariate logit model to estimate the associations of family and case characteristics with the probability of accumulating six consecutive months of sanction for the February sanction cases. We apply the parameters derived from this analysis to each case in the February and September sanction groups to calculate the predicted probability of six consecutive months of sanction. For each level of predicted risk for the February sanction cases, we know the percentage of cases that actually reached six consecutive months of sanction. We apply these percentages to the September cases to obtain the predicted number of families likely to reach full family sanction in March 2007. [Appendix B reports the estimation results.]

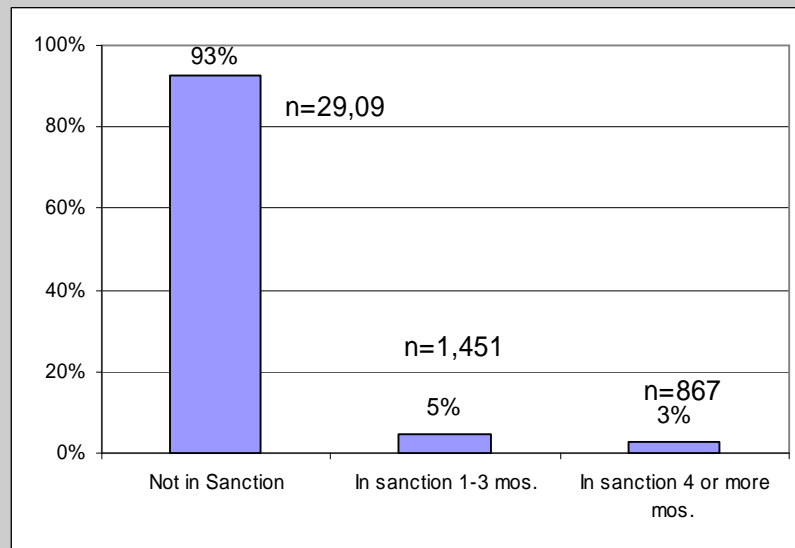
These estimates are imperfect estimates of what will happen to the September families since they cannot incorporate the effects of processes and efforts that have been implemented with full adoption of the new sanction procedures in the fall of 2006. Again, these estimates do not provide a full model of the causal links between family characteristics and the chances of partial or full family sanction. However, they will provide estimates of the numbers and characteristics of those most likely to reach full family sanction based on past experience.

Finally, we compare the characteristics of families in the low, moderate, and high risk categories. These comparisons provide a more holistic view of the characteristics of these groups, but do not isolate the contribution of individual characteristics, as does the multivariate model.

III. Description of September 2006 TANF Families by Sanction Status

In this section, we examine the characteristics of families who were receiving TANF in September 2006 by their sanction status. We describe the TANF and sanction experiences of cases, family demographics, and WorkFirst activity referrals. This gives a sense of the strengths and challenges of those most likely to face full family sanction in comparison to TANF families with lower chances.

**Figure 2:
September 2006
Adult TANF Cases by
September Sanction
Status**



Sanction Experience

Figure 2 shows the proportion of the September 2006 Adult TANF cases by their sanction status in September. Ninety-three percent of the cases were not in sanction in September, five percent had been in sanction for 1 to 3 months, and three percent had been in sanction for four or more months. The 867 cases in sanction for four or more months are those most likely to be at risk for full family sanction (as we will show below). Overall, almost eight percent of cases were in sanction in that month—a lower rate than found prior to the changes in sanction procedures and focus that began in late 2005.

**Figure 3:
Months in
Continuous Sanction
for September 2006
Sanction Cases**

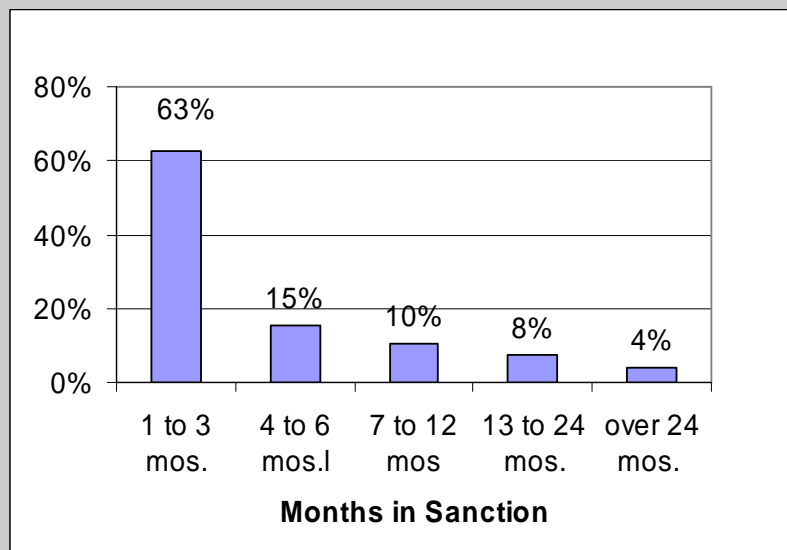


Figure 3 shows the number of months cases have continuously been in sanction prior to September for the 2318 cases in sanction in September 2006. Most of the cases have been in sanction 3 months or fewer (63 percent) and another quarter of the sanction cases have been in sanction one year or less. However, 12 percent of the cases have been in sanction for more than a year, and a third of those have had sanction spells longer than two years. These very long term sanction cases may be the most difficult to reengage.

**Figure 4:
Total Months
in Sanction
since 1997
by September 2006
Sanction Status**

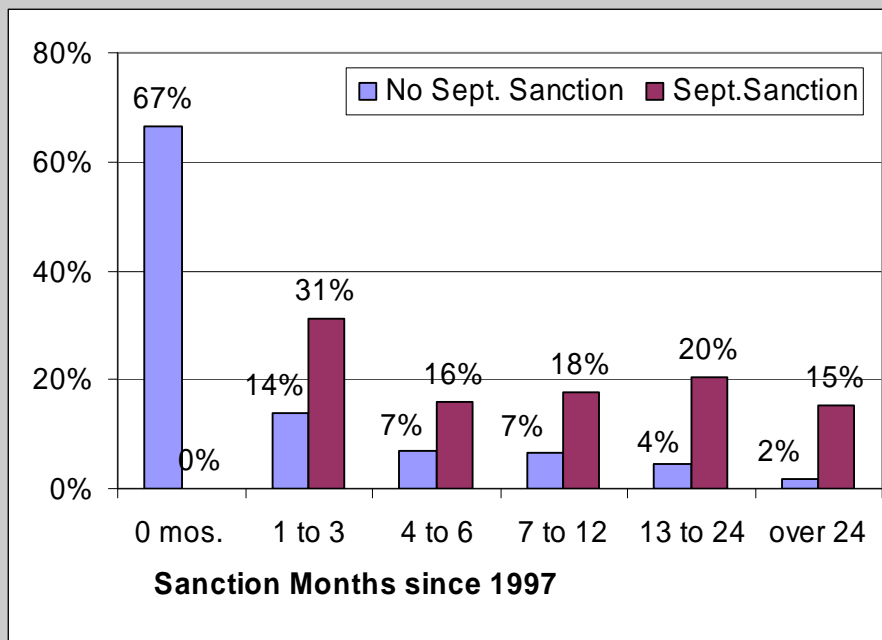


Figure 4 shows the total months of cumulative sanction since July 1997 for cases in sanction in September 2006 and those not in sanction. Sanction history prior to the current sanction spell also contributes to the likelihood of remaining in sanction for six consecutive months in the future.

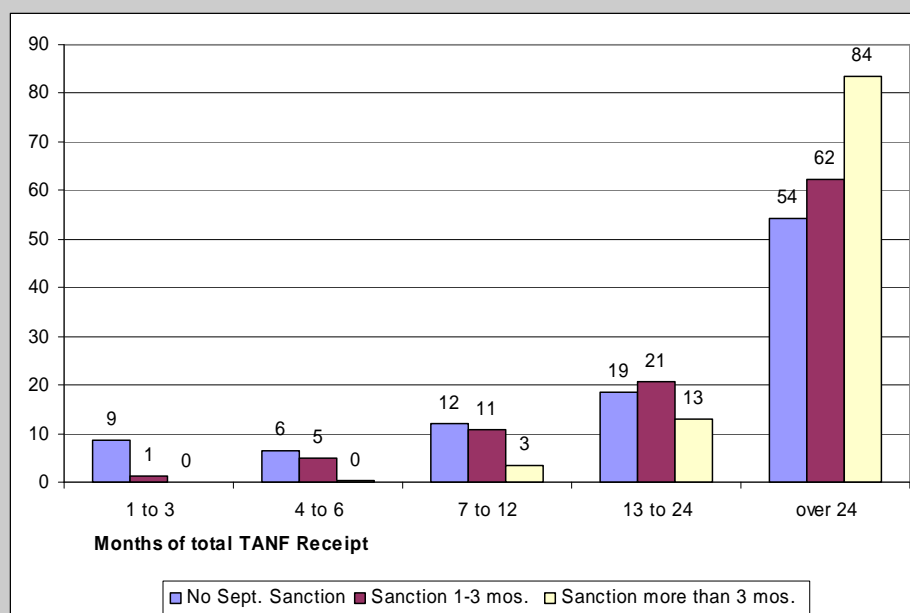
Among cases in sanction in September, only a third had 1 to 3 months of cumulative sanction history. Figure 3 previously showed that about 60 percent had been in sanction for 1 to 3 months continuously, but about half of those had had previous sanction experience. Thirty-four percent of September sanction cases had between 4 and 12 months of sanction history, and 35 percent had more than one year of sanction history.

Most cases not in sanction in September 2006 have never been sanctioned (67 percent), but 21 percent have between 1 and 6 months of previous sanction and 13 percent have more than 6 months of previous sanction.

TANF Experience

Figure 5 shows the cumulative months of TANF receipt for cases in sanction in September 2006 and those not in sanction. Here, September sanction cases are divided into those with 3 or fewer months in the current sanction spell and those with more than 3 months of sanction. Cases in longer term sanction are much more likely to have over two years of TANF receipt than are shorter term sanction cases or cases not in sanction. Cases with more prior TANF receipt are at higher risk for longer future sanction spells even after controlling for prior sanction experience.

**Figure 5:
TANF Receipt
since 1997 by
September 2006
Sanction Status**



Demographic and Case Characteristics

Some family and individual characteristics are also associated with sanction history. Table 1 shows the average characteristics of the September 2006 caseload by September sanction status. As above, cases not in sanction in September 2006 are compared with those in short sanction spells (3 months or less) and longer sanction spells (more than 3 months).

As noted above, differences in characteristics by sanction status are not necessarily indicative of direct causal influence on sanction, but could also reflect the effects of these characteristics on time on TANF, the types of participation requirements, the effects on the ability to leave TANF, and the effects on the ability to cure sanction status. However, the description of the cases in sanction may help us to better understand the challenges faced by these families.

There are quite a few statistically significant differences between the non-sanction, short term sanction, and long term sanction groups. Characteristics such as longer TANF

receipt, longer prior sanction history, lower levels of education, less work experience and lower past wages, and higher unemployment rates point to greater disadvantage among those in sanction. Other characteristics point to fewer disadvantages in the sanction groups: fewer are non-English speaking, have children on SSI, and more have a child support award. In addition, some characteristics differ on average for those in short sanction and those in long term sanction: age, one parent households, gender of adult, and the number of children. There are no significant differences in the proportion of clients in race or ethnic groups by sanction status in September.

WorkFirst Activity Referrals

Table 1 also shows the proportion of cases that received past referrals to job search, other work training activities, educational activities, deferrals, or exemptions from participation.² [The list of WorkFirst activities included in each category is in the variable definitions in Appendix A.] These referrals may reflect client needs, differing organizational strategies for engagement of clients, and the availability of local services. Referrals to job search, work training, or educational activities would create participation requirements that could increase the chances of sanction. In contrast, deferrals and exemptions would decrease the chances of sanction by at least temporarily removing participation requirements.

Those in long term sanction were less likely to have been referred to job search in the past than were those in short run sanction or with no sanction (23 percent versus 32 and 31 percent). Those in short run sanction were slightly more likely to have been referred to work training activities than were those not in sanction. Educational referrals were most likely for those not in sanction and least likely for those in long term sanction.

Deferrals and exemptions were much more common for those not in sanction than for the short term or long term sanction cases. However, rates of past deferrals were still substantial for both sanction groups.

On the whole, sanction status is associated with quite a number of family characteristics and WorkFirst experiences. The multivariate model below will explore the connections of these characteristics to future sanction for those who were in sanction in September 2006.

² We have no information on actual participation or completion of the activities, only referral. In addition, about 10 percent of cases had no record in the WorkFirst activity file. This included cases in each sanction category. The percentages reported for each sanction group could change by 1 or 2 percentage points if those cases were included.

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for September 2006 Caseload
by Sanction Status in September**

	September 2006 Sanction Status		
	Not in Sanction	In sanction 1 to 3 mos. a	In sanction 4 or more mos. b
Number of Cases	29092	1451	867
% of caseload	93%	5%	3%
Total TANF months	33.4	38.6 ***	54.8 ***
Total Sanction months	2.5	7.4 ***	20.0 ***
Sanction Spell months	0.0	1.7 ***	12.0 ***
White, non-Hispanic	61%	62%	61%
African-Am., non-Hispanic	14%	15%	17%
Hispanic, any race	11%	10%	10%
Asian Am. or Pacific Islander	3%	3%	2%
Native Am., Alaskan Native, or Eskimo	4%	4%	5%
Other race	4%	3%	3%
Unknown race/ethnicity	3%	2%	2%
One parent case	87%	91% ***	85% ***
Gender (1=male)	8%	11% ***	9%
Age (years)	30.9	29.6 ***	32.2 ***
Number of children	1.7	1.6 ***	1.9 ***
No children in the assistance unit	0.1	0.0 ***	0.0 ***
Age of youngest child (in years)	4.9	5.3 ***	6.4 ***
Age of oldest child (in years)	7.4	7.3	9.0 ***
Child receiving SSI	5%	3% ***	3%
Child Support Award (in \$100)	2.2	2.2	2.3
Non-Zero Child Support Award	67%	70% **	79% ***
Less than High School education	34%	45% ***	42%
High School or GED	50%	44% ***	45%
More than HS or GED	16%	11% ***	13%
Primary Language Other than English	6%	1% ***	1%
Average Quarterly Earnings (\$100)	14.2	13.5	9.9 ***
Number of quarters with earnings	3.7	3.7	2.7 ***
No quarters worked	32%	26% ***	37% ***
Metropolitan area	81%	82% *	78% **
Micropolitan	10%	10%	12%
Small Town	6%	5% ***	6% *
Rural	3%	3%	4%
County Unemployment rate	5.8	5.8	6.1 ***
Clients assigned to Job Search	31%	32%	23% ***
Clients assigned work-focused activities	20%	24% ***	22%
Clients assigned to education	21%	17% ***	10% ***
Clients with deferrals	32%	26% ***	20% ***
Clients with exemptions	9%	1% ***	0% **

a Tests differences between those in short term sanction and those not in sanction

b Tests differences between those in long term sanction and those in short term sanction

*** indicates p<.01

** indicates p<.05

* indicates p<.10

IV. Predictions of Full Family Sanction

As described above, we use data from the February 2006 sanction cases to assess the probability of September 2006 sanction cases reaching full family sanction in March 2007. We describe the characteristics of cases most likely to reach full family sanction (given that they are already in sanction) and our best estimates of the numbers of cases most at risk. These predictions will not reflect procedures and policies implemented in the fall of 2006, but will capture the effects of new efforts to engage sanctioned clients that occurred earlier in 2006.

Our predictions are based on a multivariate logit analysis of the relationship of family and case characteristics for the February 2006 sanction cases to the chances of reaching six cumulative months of sanction between February and July 2006.³ [The results of this model are shown in Appendix B.]

The February multivariate model predicts a greater chance of six cumulative months of sanction (conditional on already being in sanction) for those with more months of TANF receipt, longer total sanction history and longer current sanction spells, for those with education beyond high school, for those with higher child support awards, and for those living in counties with higher unemployment rates. The probability of reaching six consecutive sanction months is lower for Hispanic sanction clients, for those with more quarters worked, and for those living in small towns.

We first used the results of the multivariate model to calculate predicted probabilities of February sanction cases accumulating six months of sanction by July and categorized these cases by the level of predicted probability. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of February sanction cases in each level of predicted risk and the actual number of February cases that reached six consecutive months of sanction (the threshold for full family sanction). These estimates allow us to assess the efficacy of the multivariate model.

Table 2: Six month Sanction Predicted Probabilities and Outcomes for February 2006 Sanction Cases

Category of Predicted Probability of 6 mos. Sanction	% of February cases	Number of February cases	% of February cases with 6 mos. Sanction	Number of February cases with 6 mos. Sanction
Less than 10%	10%	355	6%	21
10% to 25%	71%	2648	16%	424
25% to 50%	17%	646	33%	213
Over 50%	2%	56	55%	31
Total	100%	3705	19%	704

³ We had to drop all cases with pregnant mothers and no children from the February logit and case calculations as well as from the September predictions (n=73). None of these February sanction cases reached 6 consecutive months of sanction; the model could not calculate coefficients for these.

The model predictions of February sanction cases reaching six months of sanction matched the actual experience quite well.⁴ Only a small number of cases (10 percent of February sanction cases) have predicted probabilities of less than 10 percent and only 6 percent of those cases actually reached 6 months of sanction. Most cases had probabilities between 10 and 25 percent, and 16 percent of those cases reached six months of sanction. Those most at risk of full family sanction had predicted probabilities of 25 to 50 percent or over 50 percent, and 33 percent and 55 percent, respectively, reached the six-month sanction mark. Overall, 19 percent (704) February cases accumulated six months of sanction comparable to the threshold for the full family sanction policy.

The multivariate estimates from the February sanction cases are used to calculate predicted probabilities for the September sanction cases and to categorize the cases by level of risk. Table 3 shows the number of September sanction cases in each risk category and the number of cases predicted to reach full family sanction if the experience of these cases mirrored that of the February sample.

Overall, 414 cases are predicted to reach full family sanction in March 2007 if the experience is similar to that of the February sanction cases. Most of these cases (264) come from those with predicted probabilities of between 10 and 25 percent because that category has the largest number of cases. However, 386 September sanction cases have predicted probability of over 25 percent and these are the cases most at risk—137 of these cases are predicted to accumulate six consecutive months of sanction.

Table 3: Six month Sanction Predicted Probabilities and Numbers for September 2006 Sanction Cases

Category of Predicted Probability of 6 mos. Sanction	% of Sept. cases	Number of Sept. cases	% of February cases with 6 mos. Sanction	Predicted Number of Sept cases with 6 mos. Sanction
Less than 10%	9%	208	6%	12
10% to 25%	74%	1651	16%	264
25% to 50%	15%	342	33%	113
Over 50%	2%	44	55%	24
Total	100%	2245	19%	414

⁴ For example, for cases with predicted probabilities of 10 to 25 percent, 16 percent reached 6 months of consecutive sanction—a number between 10 and 25 percent.

V. Characteristics by Predicted Risk of Full Family Sanction

Table 4 shows the characteristics for those with high predicted probability of full family sanction (over 25%) compared to those with low and moderate risk. The differences in Table 4 are based on the predicted future sanction (unlike the table showing current sanction status) and do not simultaneously control for other associated characteristics (as does the multivariate model).

Many of the characteristics associated with sanction history in Table 1 or with risk in the multivariate model are also associated with higher calculated probability of full family sanction. For example, those in the high risk categories have longer sanction and TANF history, are less likely to be Hispanic or Asian Pacific Islander, are less likely to be a one parent family, more likely to have a child on SSI, less likely to be non-English speaking, have higher education levels, less work experience, lower child support awards, and are more likely to be in metropolitan area.

VI. Conclusions

This analysis gives a brief picture of the sanction history and predicted risk of full family sanction for the September 2006 caseload. The experiences of February 2006 sanction cases provide the basis for our estimation of the risk of full family sanction for those in sanction in September 2006. Efforts to prepare for implementation of the full family sanction policy have entailed new and changing processes and practices that were not part of the experience of the February sanction group. Therefore, these estimates, while perhaps the best available, may not prove accurate as to the absolute risk or even the relative risk for various types of families and clients.

The risk estimates and comparisons based on past or predicted sanction status do not directly provide evidence of the causes or cures of sanction. Instead, they encapsulate many past processes that affected TANF receipt, sanction history, and WorkFirst experience and requirements. As such, they may hold predictive power for future sanction status, but may not illuminate the causal pathways critical to the development of policy prescriptions for engagement of new or continuing WorkFirst families.

Table 4: Case Characteristics of September 2006 Sanction Cases by Predicted Probability of Reaching Six Consecutive Months of Sanction

Category of Predicted Probability of Reaching Six Consecutive Months of Sanction	Low Risk: Less than 10%		Moderate Risk: 10% to 25%		High Risk: Over 25%	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	mean	SD
Sanction Spell months	2	1	4	4	16	14
Total Sanction months	4	3	9	8	31	15
Total TANF months	25	18	41	26	75	24
White, non-Hispanic	33%	47%	64%	48%	69%	46%
African-Am., non-Hispanic	13%	33%	16%	37%	16%	36%
Hispanic, any race	25%	43%	9%	29%	6%	24%
Asian Am. or Pacific Islander	13%	33%	2%	15%	0%	5%
Native Am., Alaskan Native, or Eskimo	7%	25%	4%	20%	6%	24%
Other race	8%	27%	3%	16%	1%	10%
Unknown race/ethnicity	1%	12%	2%	15%	2%	13%
One parent case	98%	14%	90%	31%	79%	41%
Gender (1=male)	13%	33%	10%	30%	11%	31%
Age (years)	30.0	8.3	29.6	7.8	35.5	8.2
Number of children	1.5	0.7	1.7	1.0	2.2	1.2
Age of youngest child (in years)	6.6	5.1	5.6	4.6	6.9	4.9
Age of oldest child (in years)	8.1	5.4	7.6	5.2	10.5	4.9
Child receiving SSI	0%	0.1	3%	0.2	9%	0.4
Primary Language Other than English	8%	0.3	0%	0.1	0%	0.0
Less than High School education	56%	0.5	45%	0.5	34%	0.5
High School or GED	39%	0.5	44%	0.5	47%	0.5
More than HS or GED	5%	0.2	11%	0.3	19%	0.4
Average Quarterly Earnings (\$100)	25.1	28.5	12.6	14.9	4.2	7.8
Number of quarters with earnings	7.1	3.7	3.3	3.2	1.2	2.1
No quarters worked	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5
Child Support Award	291	325	204	245	184	205
Non-Zero Child Support Award	74%	0.4	68%	0.5	71%	0.5
Metropolitan area	70%	0.5	82%	0.4	83%	0.4
Micropolitan	6%	0.2	11%	0.3	11%	0.3
Small Town	22%	0.4	4%	0.2	2%	0.2
Rural	2%	0.1	3%	0.2	4%	0.2
County Unemployment rate	5.7	1.7	5.8	1.7	6.4	1.9
N	208		1651		386	
Expected Number Reaching 6 consecutive mo, of Sanction	12		264		137	

Note: Does not include about 70 Sept. sanction cases with pregnant mothers with no children. These were dropped from samples because none of the Feb. cases reached 6 months of sanction.

Appendix A: Variable Definitions

Variable	Definition
Sanction status	Flag=1 if in Sanction in September 2006 (or February 2006 for February caseload)
Sanction six cumulative	Flag=1 if in sanction February to July 2006
Total TANF months	Total TANF months since 1997
Total Sanction months	Total Sanction months since 1997
Sanction spell	Months continuously in sanction prior to September 2006
Gender	Client's gender (1=Male)
Age	Client's age
Race/Ethnicity	
White	White, non-Hispanic (reference)
African American	African American, non-Hispanic
Hispanic	Hispanic, any race
Native American or	Native American or Alaskan Native, non-Hispanic
Asian or Pacific Islander	Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
Other	Other race, non-Hispanic
Unknown	Unknown race or ethnicity
Education	
Less than High School	Less than 12 years of education (reference)
High School or GED	12 years of education or GED
More than High School	13 or more years of education
Primary Language Other than English? (1=Yes)	1 if Head of Household requested WorkFirst materials in a language other than English
1 adult in the assistance unit	Only one adult in the case
Number of Children	Number of children in the assistance unit
Number of Children on SSI in	Number of children receiving SSI in the case
Age of youngest child	Age of youngest child in the assistance unit
Age of oldest child	Age of oldest child in the assistance unit
Employment History	
Number of quarters	Number of quarters worked over the 12 quarters prior to September 2006 (or February for February cases)
No recent work history	Flag=1 if the client has 0 quarters of work in the 12 quarters prior to September 2006 (or February for February cases)
Earnings History (\$100)	Average quarterly earnings in the 12 quarters prior to September 2006 (or February for February cases) divided by 100
Amount of Child Support	Highest child support award on file
No Child Support Available	Flag=1 if the client had a child support award established

Variable	Definition
WorkFirst Activities	
Clients Referred to Job	Flag for clients with at least one referral to job search
Clients Assigned to Other Work Activities	Clients with at least one referral to community jobs, pre-employment training, high wage/high demand, job skills training, on the job training, work experience, or structured community service
Clients Assigned to Education Activities	Clients with at least one referral to basic education, ESL, GED, high school, or approved vocational education
Clients Deferred for Services	Clients with at least one deferral/referral to activities required by DVR case plan, substance abuse treatment, family violence counseling, mental health services, resolution of homelessness, learning disability services, or parenting skills for pregnant parents
Clients Exempted	Clients with at least one exemption for being aged 55 or older, caring for an adult with disabilities, caring for a child with special needs, or for being an adult severe or chronic disabilities
County unemployment rate	Unemployment rate in the county in September 2006 (or February for February cases)
Index of Urbanicity/Commuting	
Metropolitan (1=Yes)	RUCA codes 1,2,3
Micropolitan (1=Yes)	RUCA codes 4,5,6
Small town (1=Yes)	RUCA codes 7,8,9
Rural (1=Yes)	RUCA code 10

**Appendix B: Multivariate Logit Model Results for February 2006 Sanction Cases
Predicting six consecutive months of sanction conditional on being in sanction**

	Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	p value
Intercept	-2.36	0.32	-7.44	<.0001
Sanction Spell months	0.02	0.01	2.78	0.005 ***
Total Sanction months	0.01	0.01	2.49	0.013 **
Total TANF months	0.01	0.00	2.56	0.011 **
African-Am., non-Hispanic	-0.22	0.13	-1.62	0.106
Hispanic, any race	-0.28	0.16	-1.76	0.079 *
Asian Am. or Pacific Islander	-0.46	0.31	-1.51	0.131
Native Am., Alaskan Native, or Eskimo	-0.22	0.19	-1.17	0.241
Other race	-0.40	0.28	-1.41	0.159
Unknown race/ethnicity	0.03	0.33	0.10	0.922
One parent case	-0.19	0.13	-1.41	0.160
Gender (1=male)	0.05	0.15	0.32	0.750
Age (years)	0.01	0.01	0.95	0.340
Number of children	0.07	0.07	1.01	0.314
Age of youngest child (in years)	-0.02	0.02	-0.88	0.378
Age of oldest child (in years)	0.001	0.02	0.05	0.957
Child receiving SSI	0.09	0.20	0.47	0.639
Primary Language Other than English	-0.75	0.51	-1.48	0.138
High School or GED	0.15	0.10	1.52	0.129
More than HS or GED	0.38	0.14	2.64	0.008 ***
Average Quarterly Earnings (\$100)	0.001	0.004	0.13	0.898
Number of quarters with earnings	-0.04	0.02	-2.12	0.034 **
No quarters worked	0.06	0.13	0.49	0.625
Child Support Award	-0.0005	0.0002	-2.07	0.039 **
Non-Zero Child Support Award	-0.01	0.12	-0.11	0.914
Micropolitan	-0.05	0.14	-0.35	0.728
Small Town	-0.55	0.20	-2.72	0.007 ***
Rural	-0.21	0.25	-0.82	0.410
County Unemployment rate	0.07	0.03	2.46	0.014 **
Number of Observations		3646		
Log Likelihood		-1681		

Note: Includes February 2006 Sanction cases except those with no children.

*** indicates p<.01

** indicates p<.05

* indicates p<.10